

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

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PASS LABOR FOR QUACKENBUSH AND LINSENMAYER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO METAL TRADES COMMITTEE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING
REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME

REF: (A) GENEVA 3203 (B) QUACKENBUSH-LINSENMAYER-PFEIFFER
TELCON MAY 12 (C) GENEVA 3120

1. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REF A WITH INFORMATION
REQUESTED IN REF B. THE PARAGRAPHS ARE INCHRONOLOGICAL
ORDER.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF C, THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (DC)
WENT OVER ALL THE RESOLUTIONS AT SUBJECT MEETING WITH
A FINE-TOOTH COMB; THE BARGAINING WAS INTENSE AND THE
PARTICIPANTS IN THE DC ALL FELT THAT CONSIDERATION OF THE
RESOLUTIONS BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) AND BY
THE PLENARY WOULD BE TROUBLE FREE. THE EMPLOYERS
REVERSAL OF THE POSITION THEY TOOK ON SUBJECT RESOLUTION
IN THE DC WAS TAKEN BY THE WORKERS AS BAD FAITH AND NOT
IN ACCORD WITH THE RULES OF THE GAME.

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3. AT THE SC MEETING IN THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 27,
LABATT ADVISED FIATARONE TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION
ON THE BASIS THAT IT WAS INNOCUOUS AND CONSISTENT
WITH TRENDS IN THE U.S. WHEN THE EMPLOYERS BEGAN
TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATES WERE
AMAZED AT THE HEATED EXCHANGES BETWEEN WORKERS AND

EMPLOYERS AND BEGAN TO SUGGEST DRAFTING CHANGES TO OVERCOME WHAT APPEARED TO BE NITPICKING DIFFERENCES. THE ONLY VOTE TAKEN WAS ON THE FRG GOVERNMENTS REPS' AMENDMENT; THERE WAS NO VOTE AND TO OUR RECOLLECTION, NO DISCUSSION OF FURTHER PROCEDURAL HANDLING OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE SC OR IN THE PLENARY. THUS, THE VOTE WAS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FRG AMENDMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE EMPLOYERS THAT THEY WOULD OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION IN PLENARY ENDED DISCUSSION IN THE SC AND THE RESOLUTION WAS THEN ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE (PRESUMABLY WITH THE EMPLOYERS ABSTAINING).

4. AFTER THE SC MEETING, THE U.S. EMPLOYER REP MC KENNA DRESSED DOWN LABATT (WHO ATTENDED SC AS NON-VOTING ADVISER) FOR ADVISING FIATARONE TO VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION; MC KENNA SAID HE WOULD COMPLAIN TO THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (DURING THIS CONVERSATION, MC KENNA ADMITTED HE AND THE EMPLOYERS OF OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES DID NOT OBJECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION BUT HAD GIVEN IN TO LDC EMPLOYERS AND WERE OPPOSING THE RESOLUTION AS A MATTER OF EMPLOYER GROUP SOLIDARITY). WHEN LABATT TOLD U.S. WORKER REP SHARMAN OF MC KENNA'S POSITION, HE LAUGHED AND SAID IF FIATARONE HAD VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION IN THE SC, THE WORKERS WOULD BE SHOOTING AT LABATT INSTEAD OF THE EMPLOYERS.

5. UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE PLENARY SESSION ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 28, THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT USG DELS HAD PROBLEMS WITH SUBJECT RESOLUTION. THUS, THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS NO REASON TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

6. JUST BEFORE THE PLENARY BEGAN, FIATARONE AND TREMANTE TOLD LABATT IN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. EMPLOYER HATHWAY THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. LABATT URGED THEM TO RECONSIDER BECAUSE THE RESOLUTION WAS ONLY A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AND BECAUSE A NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD CONTRADICT FIFTY YEARS OF U.S. LABOR LEGISLATION. FIATARONE AND TREMANTE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY HOPING THEIR POSITION WOULD NOT EMBARRASS LABATT AND BY TAKING THEIR SEATS.

7. THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT RECORDED BUT THE SPLIT USG VOTE WAS NOTICED BY MEMBERS OF THE ILO SECRETARIAT; IT DID BECOME CORRIDOR GOSSIP IN THE REMAINING HALF-DAY OF SUBJECT MEETING.

8. REBHAN HAS SINCE TOLD LABATT HE THOUGHT HIS LETTER TO DOL SECRETARY MARSHALL HAD BEEN TOO STRONG AND SAID

HE WAS GLAD HE HAD WAITED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE WRITING
IT, BECAUSE HAD HE WRITTEN IT RIGHT AFTER SUBJECT
MEETING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN STRONGER.SORENSEN

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